

## Message Text

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46

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 OIC-04 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 AID-20 OMB-01

ARA-11 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 H-02

DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01 /183 W

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R 281250 Z JUN 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0083

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ILO, PFOR, AORG, CG

SUBJ: ILO - OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE OF MINISTER BINTU' A TSHIABOLA

1. MINISTER OF LABOR AND SOCIAL SERVICES BINTU' A TSHIABOLA  
SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF THE 58 TH INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE,  
WHICH MET IN GENEVA FROM JUNE 6 TO JUNE 27, 1973.

2. HE PROVED TO BE ONE OF THE TOUGHEST, MOST EFFECTIVE  
PRESIDENTS OF AN INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE WITHIN  
MEMORY. HIS DECISIONS ON POINTS OF PROCEDURE AND POINTS OF  
ORDER WERE CLEAR AND FIRM, AND ONCE HE HAD DECIDED ON A  
MATTER, NO AMOUNT OF CONTESTATION COULD MAKE HIM BACK DOWN.

3. ONE NOTEWORTHY INCIDENT INVOLVED A POLITICAL ATTACK THAT  
THE CUBAN WORKER DELEGATE MADE ON THE UNITED STATES  
CONCERNING PUERTO RICO. THE US DELEGATE MADE A REPLY  
TO THE ATTACK FOLLOWING THE CLOSE OF THE CUBAN SPEECH. THE  
CUBANS THEN WISHED TO REPLY TO THE US REPLY, BUT BINTU SIMPLY  
SAID THAT THIS COULD LEAD TO ENDLESS EXCHANGES. HE WAS IN OFFICE  
TO PRESERVE ORDER, AND REPLIES TO REPLIES WOULD LEAD TO DISORDER,  
SO HE WOULD NOT PERMIT A FURTHER EXCHANGE. THE CUBANS MADE  
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A PRIVATE CALL ON HIM TRYING TO SOFTEN HIS POSITION, AND THEN MADE A DETERMINED EFFORT TO GET THE FLOOR DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE. BEFORE GIVING THE CUBAN THE FLOOR TO MAKE A POINT OF ORDER, BINTU LAID DOWN THE LAW IN VIGOROUS TERMS FOR NEARLY TEN MINUTES, LET THE CUBAN SPEAK, AND THEN EXPOUNDED HIS INTERPRETATION OF STANDING ORDERS FOR ANOTHER TEN MINUTES. THE CUBAN EVENTUALLY BACKED DOWN AND GAVE UP.

4. IN A MEMORABLE SCRAP ON THE FLOOR OF THE PLENARY SESSION OVER AN ANTI- ISRAELI RESOLUTION, BINTU MAINTAINED CONTROL UNDER EXTREMELY DIFFICULT CONDITIONS. THE ARAB SPONSORS OF THE RESLUTION RESORTED TO SHOUTING, HAMMERING ON DESKS, RAISING FALSE POINTS OF ORDER, ATTEMPTING TO TAKE THE ROSTRUM WIHTOUT PERMISSION, AND FINALLY WALKED OUT IN AN ATTEMPT TO STEAMROLLER THE PLENARY INTO ADOPTING THE RESOLUTION. THIS WAS EXCEPTIONALLY UNCOMFORTABLE FOR BINTU, SINCE MANY BLACK AFRICAN COUNTRIES INITIALLY SUPPORTED THE ARABS, AND HE, IN EFFECT, WAS FORCED TO RULE AGAINST SOME OF HIS FELLOW AFRICANS. HE HELD HIS GROUND, HOWEVER, AND LEFT NO DOUBT AS TO WHO WAS IN CONTROL OF THE CONFERENCE.

5. ON THE FINAL DAY OF THE CONFERENCE, HE RECEIVED TWO ENTHUSIASTIC OVATIONS FROM THE FLOOR.

6. VINTU WAS A COURAGEOUS, INTELLIGENT PRESIDENT, AND THE US DELEGATION TO THE 58 TH INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE BELIEVES IT WOULD BE IN ORDER, UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE EMBASSY'S CHOOSING FOR KINSHASA TO COMPLIMENT HIM ON HIS PERFORMANCE.

BASSIN

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decapton Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Review Date:** 03 OCT 2001  
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**Subject:** ILO - OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE OF MINISTER BINTU' A TSHIABOLA  
**TAGS:** AORG, PFOR, CG, ILO  
**To:** IO  
KINSHASA  
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO KINSHASA  
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